

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

OCTOBER 1945

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MONTHLY MEMO: To Local Presidents

BY the time this reaches you, your parent-teacher work for the current school year will be well under way. I know from experience what a busy time this is for local leaders—conducting membership campaigns, welcoming new teachers, meeting new parents, getting all your many activities and projects in motion.

- May I tell you once again what I have said many times before? You who work in the local associations are the most important people in our organization. What you do—or do not do—determines the real prestige of parent-teacher work not only among all the people in your community but among all the people in this country. When your state leaders speak before the legislature about some piece of educational or child welfare legislation, your selected representative there immediately thinks of his local parent-teacher association and how much its work counts for in his own community. The same thing happens when your National leaders appeal to members of Congress at Washington. If there are good parent-teacher associations in their communities and their states, these congressmen listen carefully and give thought to what is said.

- I should like to repeat another thing which I have said many times but of which we must remind ourselves constantly: Parent-teacher work has two phases, and both of them are very important. We must always be interested in our own homes, our own children, their teachers, the schools they attend. This is our first responsibility. But also we have to remember that our children and our homes are part of a community of homes and children, part of a state, of a nation, and of a world now greatly shrunken and facing some of its gravest problems. This is our second responsibility. We must carry the thought of all children everywhere in everything we plan and everything we do.

We Meet the President. On two occasions during September your president had the privilege of meeting President Truman in his office at the White House, both times as the member of a delegation asking his support for legislative measures designed to help people, and especially children.

- On the seventeenth I went as a member of a group pleading for more adequate and speedier aid for the people who have paid such a heavy price for war and are now in great need. (Read the story of this on page 8.) Shortly after that there was a meeting in Washington of the representatives of various organizations interested in what the Federal government does, or might do, for the children of this country in the way of health services, educational opportunities, and so forth. On the final day of the meeting President Truman received some members of the group, among them three members of your National

Board—Charles W. Phillips, second vice-president; Mrs. Malcolm McClellan, Legislation chairman; and your president.

- We not only discussed long-time services for children but urged as strongly as possible that funds be appropriated to continue the operation of federally financed nursery schools until next June. Many men are still in service, and this means that many wives must continue to work. Since the Lanham funds used for nursery schools during the war can no longer be used, some other source of aid must be drawn upon until both individuals and communities have time to make other plans.

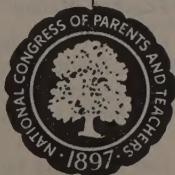
- These meetings and contacts typify parent-teacher work. It was interest in children that took us to Washington—interest in the children of our own nation and of the world. We did not go alone but as part of a group of organizations whose programs included these same interests. Cooperative work for all children (see the article about bill S.1318 on page 6) is our procedure whenever possible.

We Meet Chester Bowles. If you have been reading the *Bulletin* regularly, you know we have been cooperating closely with the OPA in its efforts to avoid inflation and to help everyone get a fair share of available goods and foods. At present Mr. Bowles is greatly concerned over another matter that is close to us also—the matter of homes for the new families that came into being during the war. Men in service and their wives, as well as workers in war industry, have been saving for these homes. Unhappily, however, there are no controls on the prices of homes and of land, and there is very real danger that many people will eventually lose all their savings or their present homes and farms because of inflated values.

- Housing and home building is one of the biggest and knottiest problems before the country today. Building materials are critically scarce; the demand is very great. It seems essential that rent controls be continued for a time and that some controls be imposed on materials while they are scarce, on the prices of land, and on both new and old houses. We do not like these controls, but neither do we want to see many of our young people lose all their savings because of an uncontrolled economic situation.

- In a personal conversation with your president, Mr. Bowles explained these matters and asked that we parent-teacher members, understanding the problem, support his efforts to control fairly the prices of homes. He says he wants a healthy building boom but not a “bust.” Will you share this message with your members? “To raise the standards of home life” is a major objective of our organization, and all that pertains to home owning should have our serious consideration.

I wish you continued joy in your service to children.

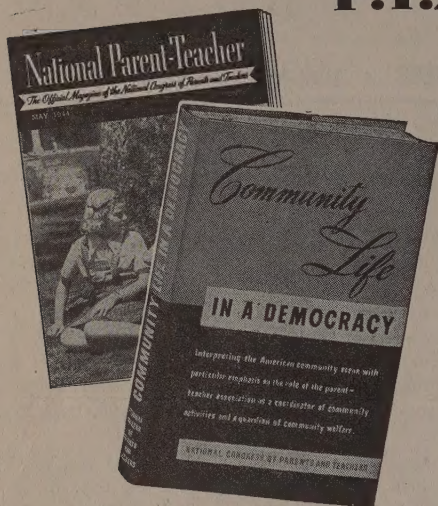


Minnetta A. Hastings!

President

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

USE AND SHARE YOUR P.T.A. PUBLICATIONS



MEMBERS of parent-teacher associations are in a strategic position to render a great service to the many new mothers and fathers who live in our communities or will be soon coming there.

From what we read about the men overseas, home to them has come to mean something higher and more sacred than ever before. Interviews in newspapers indicate that working women will return to their homes determined to make of them the best possible training centers for future citizens.

● Soon now many newly married couples—who have not yet had a chance to lead a normal, quiet existence—will be finding permanent locations in our communities. This year, more than ever, the P.T.A. will want to include all these potential members in its plans and activities.

Of course, thousands of new, young parents may have already joined our great organization, but we cannot expect them to continue to come to meetings unless we make our programs as interesting, educational, and satisfying as all other competing factors. A simple invitation to come to school is not enough. We must continue to improve our techniques and our meetings.

Those who welcome these new members—the officers, the chairmen, the speakers—must be well informed. We don't mean informed on every subject but on the one particular job they have to do.

The National Congress publications are our best source of information. Carefully compiled by authorities on each

subject, these helpful books and pamphlets are available from your local president (in the packet mailed last month) or from your council or district publications chairman.

As I glanced through some of the new publications, it seemed to me that anyone who had familiarized himself with the two leaflets about the *National Parent-Teacher* study courses could readily sell the magazine simply by mentioning the intriguing topics that will be covered in the study courses—such topics as “When and How To Say No” or “Two; Three; Look at Me!”

No matter what you're studying, the booklet, *Study Group Techniques*, will give you hints on why you should have a study group, how to get people together, how to get started, and, most important of all, how to hold the group together.

Guiding Principles, written in sprightly style, is an indispensable little book when questions of policy arise. It is especially valuable for leaders and speakers.

How To Organize Parent-Teacher Associations and Preschool Sections of P.T.A.'s is a well outlined and concise pamphlet that all officers should read. Parents with small children will find *The Preschool Age—A Period of Promise* to be delightful and invaluable reading, and *The Rural P.T.A.* will help to solve many of the problems of our members who live in the sparsely settled areas of America.

Program Planning, which gives reference material and outlines of typical programs, should be read not only by the program chairman but many others as well. However, that is a statement that can be made of almost all Congress publications.

Councils is a publication written for those who are working at this level of P.T.A. organization. And if you sometimes become lost in a maze of motions in the order of business, you will be better able to handle meetings after studying “Parliamentary Procedures” in the 1945 *Parent-Teacher Manual*.

The 1945 edition of the leaflet, *General Information*, is attractive with its blue and white cover and is a handy size for slipping into men's pockets or women's purses. It tells briefly about our work and is just the thing to give to all

The Baxters will be back on the air December 8. Refer to your local newspaper for time and NBC station.

the men at your first P.T.A. meeting. It also highlights the platform of work for the year in the section “Searchlights and Compass Points for 1945-46.” You'll wish to quote its short, easily read statements about the organization and its statistics on membership.

If you'd rather not work on committees but just want to sing for joy, there is another publication, *Choral Groups*, in which you'll be interested. It describes our music program and makes suggestions about the selection of numbers.

Now we still cannot be content with merely seeing that every member is well informed about the organization to which he belongs. The good word must be passed along. The *Parent-Teacher Publicity Handbook* explains the best methods of telling others about the P.T.A.

All these publications and many others are for you as individual members who have paid your dues (5c to the National Congress). Did you ever get so much for a nickel before? Be sure to remind your members to stop at the publications table at your next meeting and ask to see the book or pamphlet in which you are especially interested.

—Mrs. E. T. Hale, National Chairman
Committee on Congress Publications

“HOME IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT”

On October 6 the NBC homemaking program, “Home Is What You Make It,” returned to the air. This program, presented in cooperation with the *National Congress of Parents and Teachers*, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the American Home Economics Association, covers a wide variety of subjects concerning the home, the family, and the school. Some of the topics in the new series are “Making School a Happy Experience,” “Achieving That ‘Band-box’ Look,” “Planning a Home,” and “We Were Adolescent Too.”

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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OCTOBER CHECK LIST For Local Presidents

1. Are your committees all appointed? Do they know what is expected of them?
2. Have you planned your program well in advance?
3. Is your membership enrollment well under way? Are you sure that new members are being made to feel welcome and at ease?
4. Have you planned a school of instruction for new workers?
5. Have you conducted a fall checkup of the children examined in the Summer Round-Up?
6. Did you present a budget to the association?
7. Are your bylaws up to date?
8. Are you familiar with the National Congress legislation program for the year?
9. Have you budgeted a dollar—or several dollars if your association can afford it—for subscribing to the *National Parent-Teacher*, *The P.T.A. Magazine*?
10. Have you organized parent education classes or study groups?
11. Have you worked out a system for circulating parent-teacher publications among chairmen and members?
12. Have you organized a preschool section?
13. Are you making arrangements to send delegates to council, district, or state meetings?
14. Are you planning to study the United Nations Charter?
15. Do you have some local activities and accomplishments that the editor of your state bulletin or of the *National Congress Bulletin* would appreciate hearing about?
16. Do your members feel that they are part of a big organization that is well established and highly respected in the affairs of the nation?

AN OUTSIDE VIEW OF THE P.T.A.

I have long had contact with the National Congress of Parents and Teachers through its health work in the schools and in relation to its steady support of child study and parent education. I know that its magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher*, has increasingly become a force of great educational significance. All the friends of childhood and of education at every level should support the extraordinarily useful work of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

—George D. Stoddard
New York State Commissioner of Education

FOR PRESCHOOL SECTIONS OF P.T.A.'S

An excellent preschool study course is appearing now in the *National Parent-Teacher*. The course is based on the following articles to be presented each month during the year:

1. Lots Can Happen Before Two
2. Two; Three; Look at Me!
3. Christmas Is Coming!
4. Shall My Child Go to Nursery School?
5. Four; Five; How I Thrive!
6. Juniors and Seniors—in Kindergarten
7. Readiness for First Grade
8. A New Baby Comes to Our House

Intriguing titles, aren't they? You can start the course any time, provided you have a subscription that includes issues from September 1945 through April 1946. If your preschool group hasn't subscribed yet, please do not delay too long! We have put aside some September numbers, and if you send your subscriptions immediately we can still supply copies of September and October issues. Be sure to remind us to start with the September issue if you are planning to use the complete course.

Twenty-Five Years Old

The twenty-fifth anniversary of radio will be observed November 4–10 this year. Many tributes might be paid to radio as an essential freedom of American life, but P.T.A. associations can best commemorate this birthday week by focusing interest on:

1. The new role of radio education in the classroom. Educational broadcasts are growing in popularity and effectiveness, and television holds a promising future as a teaching aid.
2. The expanded use of radio in presenting courses for public school teachers who might otherwise be denied professional improvement because of travel limitations. To these teachers in remote sections, radio offers new possibilities for college credit through cooperative plans with the extension division of colleges or universities.
3. The increasing influence of radio in promoting international friendliness—a closer kinship that can help to build a world of good will.

CAMPAIGN A GREAT SUCCESS

EARLY this spring all of us were busy cleaning out our clothes closets for the United National Clothing Collection. Now we are gratified to learn that our goal has been reached. In a letter to the President, Henry J. Kaiser, national chairman of the collection, stated recently: "The response of the American people has been magnificent, and the entire enterprise has been an inspiring demonstration of democracy in action."

Many of you gave splendid leadership and loyal service and we are proud of every parent-teacher member who helped to achieve so outstanding a success.

• More than a hundred national organizations, including our own, responded to the request for 150,000,000 pounds of serviceable used clothing to be given to deprived peoples in war-torn lands. Community ingenuity went to work on schemes for getting enthusiastic response from townspeople. In every city and hamlet from coast to coast, children and adults brought pounds of clothing, and then began the sorting, mending, and packing. Soon the trucks began to load, and before long hundreds of cartons were trundled off to the warehouses for shipping to distribution centers.

America has truly done a great job as only America can!

Through the cooperation of the National Broadcasting Company, our National Congress radio program will go on the air for fifty-two weeks, starting December 8, 1945. Be sure to plan now to listen to this outstanding program. *The Baxters* have become a parent-teacher byword in homes throughout the country.



13,000,000 MEN AND WOMEN

★ ★ Veterans of World War II ★ ★

WILL WEAR THIS HONORABLE SERVICE EMBLEM

★ It stands for an honorable discharge from our country's armed forces.



WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-

Check at once with your NBC radio station to find out when to tune in on *The Baxters*, our National Congress radio program. If your local station cannot broadcast it at the regular time, suggest a rebroadcast at a later hour.

The High School and the Community

ALTHOUGH there are P.T.A.'s in most of the elementary schools of this country, the high school P.T.A. is still a new idea in many communities. One important problem in every high school unit is that of developing programs and projects suited to this higher educational level.

The Saginaw, Michigan, High School P.T.A. has successfully solved this problem by linking all its activities with community affairs in which students, parents, and teachers alike have a vital interest.

• Here, for example, is a program they completed successfully. It may furnish some practical suggestions to other high school associations. The general theme is "The High School Serves the Community."

September. Topic: "Cooperative Education in Business and Vocational Training," discussed by the high school principal in the school auditorium. Project: Promotion of the Back-to-School campaign.

October. Topic: "Calisthenics and Football Scrimmage," a talk by the high school coach illustrated by demonstrations by the football team on the illuminated athletic field. Project: Public education on safety in football.

November. "Election Information," discussed by four civics classes, with a demonstration of how to use voting machines. Project: Seeing that every citizen was properly registered and ready to cast his vote on Election Day.

December. Topic: "The School Gymnasium a Community Center," with an exhibit of gymnastics by high school gym classes, a skit by the dramatics class, and community singing. Project: A pre-Christmas bazaar to raise money for a recreation fund and a P.T.A. college scholarship.

January. Topic: "Life Opportunities for Foreign-Language Students," with skits showing the value and use of foreign languages by members of Latin, French, and Spanish classes. Project: A survey of local employers to determine the need for a knowledge of a foreign language in business and industry.

February. Topic: "The Recreational Responsibilities of the P.T.A.," with a presentation and discussion of a survey of student interests and activities participated in by parents, teachers, and students. Project: The above survey, based on questionnaires submitted to 1,300 students.

March. Topic: "Science in a Modern World," presented by students in physics classes, who also demonstrated and explained experiments on light, heat, sound, and so on. Project: A P.T.A. benefit party to raise money toward a \$35,000 World War II alumni memorial scholarship endowment fund.

April. Topic: "The Value of American Citizenship," presented by American history classes. Project: Through the efforts and financial support of our P.T.A., citizenship classes were inaugurated in the city for foreign-born residents.

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The Southwest Council in the Los Angeles Tenth District of the California Congress held some extremely helpful and interesting parent education classes during the year. Fourteen classes in dressmaking and eight on youth leadership were particularly outstanding. Other classes covered consumer education, nutrition, child welfare, sex hygiene, adolescent physiology, and radio listening.

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Exceptional Child P.T.A.

A LETTER from Mrs. Margaret Z. Brown, president of the Exceptional Child Parent-Teacher Association in Miami, Florida, tells of commendable progress in helping handicapped children and adults. Through the efforts of some of the unit members, the county school board was persuaded to purchase an unoccupied night club and remodel it for the use of exceptional children who were unable to attend regular public school.

This association also finances the salaries of several instructors who teach courses in special education at both the University of Florida and the University of Miami. Local county groups then assist individual teachers in taking advantage of these courses. "It is my hope that every local association will have an exceptional child chairman who will truly be interested in our work," writes Mrs. Brown, "and in turn arouse interest in each association."

Work for Everyone

THE six parent-teacher associations in Kingsport, Tennessee, are accomplishing much toward the improvement of their schools. "Outstanding work has been done in our school libraries," writes Mrs. C. H. Neuffer, president of the City Council, "and assistance has been given in the equipping of lunchrooms and teachers' lounge rooms.

"The associations have purchased movie projectors and helped to furnish magazines, good encyclopedias, band music, and similar items. Through the sale of magazine subscriptions, the high school students have earned several thousand dollars for a servicemen's memorial that will be erected on the high school campus. The P.T.A. added thirteen hundred dollars to this fund last year through the sale of pencils."

"Many projects promote the general welfare," continues Mrs. Neuffer, "such as assisting the Boy Scout program, and entertaining our teachers at a series of dinner receptions. We have endorsed the retirement plan for teachers, furnished radio speakers for P.T.A. Week and American Education Week, aided our city library staff with an outstanding Book Week program, and given financial aid to all health drives."

Basic Promotion

AT the Maryland Summer Conference held last July at the University of Maryland, our Congress publications were given some excellent publicity that other states may wish to adopt. The conference director arranged an effective display and gave a forceful presentation of how to use our publications. Then in addition every speaker on the program made specific mention of the publications related to the particular topic under discussion—home, school, or community. In this way, the publications assumed their rightful importance as basic supplements to parent-teacher effort in every field of endeavor.

The subscription price of the *National Congress Bulletin* is twenty cents a year. Anyone interested in parent-teacher work may subscribe.

TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*



Information About the P.T.A.

An inviting, unique, and informative booklet has been prepared by the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers in answer to an increasing demand from individuals, educators, and groups for complete information on the P.T.A. With an increasing frequency, inquiries have been received in the state office during the past six months from persons desiring to know the procedure necessary for joining the P.T.A., the benefits to be derived, and so on.

The booklet contains the state directory, the names of the district presidents and the secretary of the state office. It gives information about National and state congress objectives, membership, program and activities, the *Wisconsin Parent-Teacher*, the *National Congress Bulletin*, the *National Parent-Teacher*, the state office, district meetings and state conventions, the legislation program, and community advantages of the P.T.A. It outlines the step-by-step procedure necessary to join the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers and extends an invitation to nonmembers to visit local units to see their programs in action.

This excellently arranged and attractive booklet gives a representative view of the principles, objectives, and activities of the parent-teacher organization. Received with an accompanying letter of invitation, it should bring many favorable responses from those who are interested in helping to promote the work of child welfare.



Where There's a P.T.A.— *Things Get Done*

Turning out as if for an old-time log-rolling or cornhusking, the patrons of Shades-Cahaba School in Homewood, Alabama, recently built a much-needed walkway from one entrance of the building to the driveway. Materials were furnished by the P.T.A. at a cost of fifty dollars, and the labor was donated by the members because of a shortage of funds and manpower. The men worked with picks, shovels, hammers, and saws, while the women improved the shrubbery and grounds with hedge clippers and pruning hooks. Refreshments added festivity, and a true community spirit was fostered by the occasion.

Another accomplishment of the association was the raising of \$10,500 in public subscriptions to purchase Venetian blinds and to install a new heating and lighting system in the school. The Jefferson County Board of Education, like many other school boards in the South, is short of funds for school maintenance, but with enterprising P.T.A. members on hand to help, progress is bound to result.

P.T.A. ALMANAC FOR OCTOBER

Within the association:

- Membership enrollment.
- Parent-Teacher Week in many states.
- Fall checkup of children examined in the Summer Round-Up program.
- Beginning of the *National Parent-Teacher* study courses.
- Fall state conventions; schools of instruction; district conferences and regional meetings.

Within the community:

- October 12—Columbus Day. An opportunity to study inter-American geography, medieval history, and life in other American republics. Write the Children's Book Council, 62 West 45th Street, New York 19, New York, for slides on loan from the Pan-American Union.
- October 15-21—National Bible Week. Interdenominational. Sponsored by the Laymen's National Committee, 112 Park Avenue, New York, New York. Religious book list available from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York.
- October 21-27—National Hearing Week. Sponsored by the American Society for the Hard of Hearing, Washington 7, D. C. Pamphlets, 16mm films on hearing problems, and suggestions for exhibits of books valuable to the hard-of-hearing child may be obtained from the sponsors.
- October 29—November 3—Girl Scout Week. Sponsored by the Girl Scout National Headquarters, 155 East 44th Street, New York 17, New York. Helpful materials available from this address.

Membership cards are distributed from the state congress office—not from the National Office.

THE VICTORY LOAN CAMPAIGN STARTS OCTOBER 29

NINE short feature films and five 4-minute bulletins, all available on 16mm



sound motion pictures prepared by the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps especially for the Victory Loan campaign which opens on October 29, are intended especially for organizations throughout the U.S.

Pictures like "Diary of a Sergeant" and "Voyage to Recovery" tell the nation's leaders of opinion and group action how to help in the tremendous task of veteran reestablishment and rehabilitation.

Films played a major role in the previous War Loans. Better than any other medium, according to War Finance officials, they told and showed the whole

story about our battles in the Pacific and European theaters. Now, as the nation faces critical problems of post-war, 16mm films are being counted upon to tell audiences gathered at luncheon meetings, evening forums, and similar places the "why and how" of the times.

All films are available throughout the nation through the local facilities of 16mm film libraries and distributors. A 16mm state chairman has been appointed in every state as an official of the War Finance Organization. To obtain these pictures simply check with local or state War Finance headquarters in your state. There is no charge for their loan whatsoever.

Postwar Traffic Safety

THE present postwar traffic situation is a problem that requires the understanding and help of everyone interested in the welfare of youth. Since 1922 the death rate from motor vehicle accidents to school children has decreased 33 per cent, but the National Safety Council predicts that traffic accident fatalities to young people are now likely to skyrocket unless immediate steps are taken to stop them. The P.T.A. is one of the many organizations that can help to prevent an alarming increase in such fatalities during the present crisis.

There are several reasons why special emphasis must be placed on the problem right now. Many school children were too young at the beginning of the war to remember traffic at its peacetime peak. Others have forgotten the precautions needed in thick and fast traffic. Rural school children are not accustomed to seeing motor vehicles traveling at the high rates of speed now allowed. Some of our older boys and girls perhaps have had a start at driving but are out of practice because of the curtailed use of the family car.

School buses, like all motor vehicles, are in the most critical state since the beginning of the war. Until new motor parts and tires are again plentiful, the utmost precautions must be taken. Drivers, including many new school bus drivers, are not used to the volume or speed of present traffic. Parents and teachers themselves are not so keenly aware of the traffic problems as they formerly were.

● Therefore the National Safety Council urges the following means of cooperative endeavor:

1. Inform children about the change in the traffic situation by calling it to their attention in the classroom.
2. Make sure that school buses are checked regularly and that critical weaknesses are corrected as soon as possible.
3. Sponsor driver training courses and refresher courses on handling a car.
4. Caution all drivers about the weakness of vehicles and the poor conditions of the roads.
5. Discuss traffic safety at parent-teacher meetings so that all townspeople may become aware of the problem.
6. Enlist the cooperation of all community agencies in a concerted campaign to curb accidents and fatalities.

A definite safety program and sincere individual effort are needed to control the imminent danger, but through cooperation this period of transition may be safely bridged and many unnecessary deaths averted.

EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS AGREE ABOUT THE P.T.A.

Among those with years of experience in public education there is general agreement concerning the parent-teacher organization. We recognize it as an ally in the development and improvement of public education. Its strength arises from the fact that it is first of all a local organization with "grass roots" in thousands of communities. From the local through the state and the national organization it follows the characteristically American pattern for the discussion and solution of mutual problems.

It has been my observation that in communities where educators and parents cooperate through the parent-teacher organization the educational environment of young people thereby develops qualities of security, stability, and richness. Education grows in quality as it enlists the support of more and more groups representing the various types of homes and adult interests in the community.

—Willard E. Givens, Executive Secretary
National Education Association

Postwar Housing

Any parent-teacher organization that wishes to help returning veterans and their families should not neglect the problem of housing. Although the housing shortage at times invokes hardships on all of us, it falls most heavily on servicemen's families living on allotments and on veterans who return and have no housing at all.

The National Housing Agency has recently been given responsibility for administering an Act of Congress designed to relieve some of these problems, but some phases of the program are awaiting the voting of funds for constructing or moving temporary housing. In the meantime, we can help in these ways:

1. Make sure that any veterans' information centers now in operation have facilities for handling inquiries on housing. Many such centers have failed to include this important service.
2. Overcome the reluctance of real estate owners to rent to families with children. Usually the serviceman with children suffers the greatest difficulty in finding suitable living quarters.
3. Consider renting unused rooms in our homes until the government housing projects can be completed.

More Aid FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

THIS year promises to be one of progress in the field of legislation for the welfare of children and youth. One encouraging bit of legislation that conforms to the aims of the National Congress is the bill (S.1318) introduced in the Senate on July 26, 1945, by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida. You will be hearing more about it soon from your legislation chairman.

The National Congress approves the general purposes of the bill, although some of the administrative details are being questioned and may be amended.

During the war we became painfully aware of our neglect, for the draft statistics proved how unfit were many young men who had not had proper physical care and emotional security. Senator Pepper's measure proposes a comprehensive national plan that will help to protect our greatest resource—the children of America.

This bill, to be known as the Maternal and Child Welfare Act of 1945, seeks to authorize an appropriation of \$100,000,000 for a ten-year expansion of state programs to provide more adequately for the health and welfare of mothers and children. With Federal financial aid and technical assistance, the states would be enabled to supply and maintain facilities for:

1. Maternity care, including medical, nursing, dental, hospital, and related services.

2. Preventive maternal and child health work, including mental health.
3. Diagnostic services and care of sick and crippled children.
4. School health services.
5. Dental care for children.
6. Correction of defects and conditions likely to interfere with the normal growth and development and the educational progress of children. This would include child-welfare services for emotionally sick and insecure children and for children without parental care or supervision.

The bill stipulates that these services would be available to all who elect to participate in them, regardless of race, creed, color, place of residence, or national origin.

In introducing the bill, Senator Pepper said:

"The war has given us irrefutable proof that a nation which neglects the health and welfare of its children does so at its own peril. . . . It is a mockery for a nation to demand service from citizens to whom as children it denied the opportunity to prepare for such service. . . . It has been a paradox of government, made up as it is primarily of fathers and mothers, that it has in the past placed such a low priority on developing the conditions and services necessary to assure all children their fair chance in life. Here is our opportunity to reverse our past indifference and neglect. . . . Putting children first brings its own reward, as much to a nation as to individual parents."

ACTION BEING TAKEN ON CHILD-CARE CENTERS



MANY parent-teacher members have felt deep concern over the possible destiny of the child-care centers now maintained for the small children of working mothers. These nursery schools, operating with the help of funds appropriated under the Lanham Act, were to be terminated on October 31. However, the announcement of this closing date resulted in protests from all over the country, and President Truman asked General Philip Fleming, administrator of the Federal Works Agency, to present the problem to Congress soon.

Recently a group of representatives from several interested organizations, including three members of our National Board, met with President Truman to discuss this important matter. The bill (H.R.4202) introduced on September 27 by Representative Clyde Doyle is in line with the recommendations made by this group. This bill, entitled the Emergency Child-Care Act of 1945, would appropriate \$5,000,000 to help the states keep the child-care centers open for a longer period of time. It is not intended as a permanent measure but as a temporary assistance until such time as the states can make provision for meeting their own needs.

In presenting the bill Representative Doyle expressed the hope that the Federal Works Administration might extend its program a while longer—at least until December 31 of this year. After that date the emergency appropriation would give assistance until June 30, 1946.

Our organization supports the continuance of the nursery schools. Numbers of soldier fathers have not yet returned, and some will not come back for many more months. We feel that the closing of the centers would constitute a real hardship both to mothers and their small children.

Quick action is necessary to forestall the termination of the nurseries at the end of this month. Write or wire Rep. Fritz G. Lanham, chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, or Rep. Clarence Cannon, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. You may also wish to write President Truman to let him know of the great public interest in the child-care centers.

It is hoped that after this emergency is taken care of a long-range program may be developed that will include child welfare service and Federal aid for educational purposes.

AMERICAN *Education* WEEK NOVEMBER 11-17

THE twenty-fifth annual observance of American Education Week will be celebrated November 11-17, 1945. This nation-wide observance of the ideals of free public education will be especially meaningful this year, for the role of education is emerging with renewed vigor after the tragedy of war.

American Education Week gives us an opportunity to concentrate attention upon our schools—to see the schools in action, to learn more about what they are doing, and to know what support would help them to accomplish more. Only through education can all nations learn to live together in harmony and peace, and the pattern of America's public schools may well set the example for education in all peaceloving nations.

The theme for this year, "Education To Promote the General Welfare," is especially apt, for the greatest need today is a deeper concern for the general welfare. Our schools will play a major part in developing citizens who can work together for the common good of all peoples everywhere in the world.

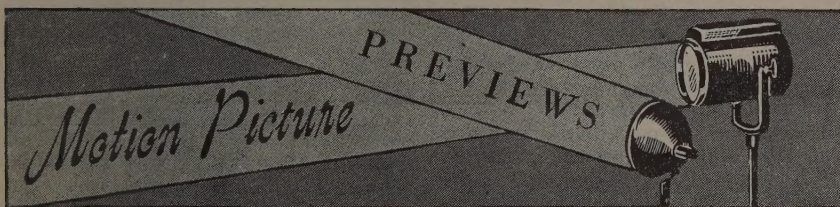
American Education Week is sponsored jointly by the National Education Association, the American Legion, the U.S. Office of Education, and the *National Congress of Parents and Teachers*.

- The daily topics this year are:
- Nov. 11—*Emphasizing Spiritual Values*
- Nov. 12—*Finishing the War*
- (The news of victory came too late to allow for changing this topic, but the day can be devoted to reviewing the contributions of the schools in winning the war or to some other local adaptation as desired.)
- Nov. 13—*Securing the Peace*
- Nov. 14—*Improving Economic Well-being*
- Nov. 15—*Strengthening Home Life*
- Nov. 16—*Developing Good Citizens*
- Nov. 17—*Building Sound Health*

Many helps such as posters, leaflets, radio scripts, and plays are available to help you observe the week successfully.

Write to the National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington 6, D. C., for further information and a comprehensive list of materials.

Be sure to tune in on *The Baxters* December 8. The program will come to you over the NBC network.



CONSULT THE P.T.A. MAGAZINE ABOUT MOVIES

THE "Motion Picture Previews" in the *National Parent-Teacher* provide an invaluable service to parents. These previews are prepared under the direction of Ruth B. Hedges, motion picture chairman of the California Congress, with the assistance of Hypatia Gordon Parvis, report chairman. Mrs. Hedges is one of the foremost authorities on film evaluation, particularly in the judging of pictures that are suitable for young movie-goers.

The films are classified into three

groups: Junior Matinee (from 8 to 14 years); Family (suitable for children if accompanied by adults); and Adult. In addition, each movie is rated as to its suitability for grade school children, its appropriateness for boys and girls of high school age, and its appeal for adults. This feature of the P.T.A. magazine will give you much-needed assistance in choosing the movies you want your children to see. Many members say that this section alone is worth far more than the subscription price of the magazine.



"MORE BOOKS FOR MORE CHILDREN"

NOW is the time to plan your local observance of Children's Book Week, November 11-17. This year a Children's Book Council has been established to handle the ever-widening Book Week program. This group, sponsored by publishers through the Association of Children's Book Editors "will serve as a clearinghouse for information concerning all activities connected with children's reading."

• After Book Week has served to attract public attention and to arouse new enthusiasm, the Council will help to emphasize during all fifty-two weeks the application of the slogan "More Books for More Children." This means that all groups and organizations, as well as libraries, schools, and bookstores, will have news of what others are doing to promote increased reading of better books.

Under the theme "United Through Books" plans are also being made for an international celebration of Book Week. England, Australia, New Zealand, and Russia all are building programs for 1945.

For many years P.T.A. groups have led in promoting and supporting Book Week activities in their communities. Our committees on reading and library service will again be prepared to give concrete suggestions not only on special projects and exhibits but also about material suitable for year-round use.

Pan-American P.T.A.

The National Congress is always gratified to learn of the splendid work being done by our Pan-American neighbors in the field of education. Mrs. Nelly O. Malek, president of the parent-teacher association in Aguadulce, Republic of Panama, writes to us of her work in helping to reestablish a kindergarten and to train teachers. A professor in the Normal School of Santiago, Mrs. Malek is also secretary of *Junta de Accion*, a civic organization that promotes worthy community projects. The true parent-teacher spirit of service is exemplified in the closing lines of her letter: "I keep myself very busy, but I enjoy everything I do. For me, it is a pleasure to serve others."

KEEP ON CANNING

IF you are not yet helping in the Community Canning Program it is not too late to take part in this humanitarian campaign. Every community is urged to increase its canning output 10 per cent above local needs so that we may contribute surplus food to combat famine elsewhere in the world.

The shortage of sugar need not interfere with your plans, for fruit may be canned without sugar and sweetened to taste before it is served. The millions of people in Europe and the Far East who face a winter of starvation will gladly receive all fruits and vegetables we can spare. Many may be doomed to perish for lack of what we might thoughtlessly waste.

Because most home canning is done in glass and also because some definite standard of inspection is necessary, home canned foods cannot be accepted for postwar relief.* The canning must be done at local community canning centers, school lunchrooms, home economics kitchens, or custom canneries under qualified supervision. Competent persons who are technically qualified to supervise community canning under this relief program include the county home demonstration agent, a home economics teacher, a Red Cross nutritionist, a community canning plant supervisor, a vocational agricultural teacher, a home management supervisor from the Farm Security Administration, or a home economist connected with a public utility company. The state supervisor of agricultural education or the state supervisor of home economics education in your State Department of Education will gladly supply further information upon request.

• In making our contribution, we are being more than beneficent. We are helping the starving children of today to become healthy men and women—vigorous adults who can join hands with the coming generation of sturdy Americans to build a world where youth may never again suffer the hardships of war.

*This regulation applies only to foods that are to be donated for postwar relief. Home canned foods are of course most welcome for use in the school lunch program.

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Buy
Victory
Bonds

START NOW TO GET READY FOR THE

- National
- Clothing
- Collection

Very soon the National Clothing Collection will be sponsoring another drive for good, used clothing to be sent to the needy in some of the destitute nations of the world.

Henry J. Kaiser is to serve again as chairman of the collection, and your president will once more be on the national committee. Although the results of the first clothing drive were more than gratifying, the need is still imperative.

If you shared in the campaign before, we're sure you'll be doing your part this time, for you have felt the deep satisfaction of helping those in distress. If for any reason you failed to respond to the first call for clothing, you now will have this second opportunity to contribute to the deprived people who face a miserable winter.

For the citizens of the unfortunate nations that are struggling to regain their equilibrium, our cast-off garments mean not merely a greater degree of material comfort—they may truly spell the difference between peaceful recovery or the strife of anarchy and revolution. Start collecting garments now so that you'll be ready when the plea is made.

LEPROSY HAS INCREASED

In many of our allied nations, leprosy is spreading, and outside help is greatly needed. Some of our soldiers are returning from battle areas with leprosy infections.

Recently an antileprosy program was organized and will be operated by the American Mission to Lepers. The program has two objectives: (1) to train antileprosy workers among the natives and (2) to campaign for popular education that will help prevent the disease.

P.T.A. units can assist in spreading information about leprosy, its prevention and its cure. Groups that are interested in further information may write to the American Mission to Lepers, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

Our National Congress radio program, *The Baxters*, will be broadcast over the NBC network starting December 8.